

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS PINT, AR
SUBJECT JUNTA ANNOUNCEMENT ANTICIPATES SOME FEATURES
OF NEXT GOVERNMENT

1. TWO ESSENTIAL POINTS WERE CONTAINED IN THE
MESSAGE WHICH WAS READ ALOUD MONDAY AT A
CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MARCH 24, 1976 MILITARY COUP, AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE "MESSAGE OF NEXT MARCH 24 WILL NOT BE
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEN WHO TODAY MAKE UP
THE MILITARY JUNTA, THE SUPREME BODY OF THE
STATE;"

B. "IN THAT TASK (OF BUILDING A LASTING
DEMOCRACY) THERE WILL BE ROOM FOR A PROGRESSIVE
PARTICIPATION OF CIVILIANS IN GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS
IN ORDER TO ASSURE A FIRM AND SUSTAINED MARCH IN
SEARCH OF SOUGHT AFTER OBJECTIVES."

2. WHILE THESE TWO POINTS--THAT THE CURRENT JUNTA
WILL BE REPLACED BY ANOTHER JUNTA BEFORE THE NEXT
ANNIVERSARY DATE OF THE COUP AND THAT THERE WILL BE CIVILIAN
PARTICIPATION AT SOME STAGE OF THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION
PROCESS--HAVE BEEN ANTICIPATED IN PRESS REPORTS BEFORE, THIS
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ADDRESS IS BEING INTERPRETED AS CONSTITUTING OFFICIAL
CONFIRMATION OF THESE POINTS BY ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE
CURRENT JUNTA.

3. OTHER THEMES OF IMPORTANCE CONTAINED IN THE MESSAGE ARE
THAT THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION PROCESS WILL BE GRADUAL AND
THAT THE END RESULT WILL NOT BE A POLITICAL MODEL OF THE

LIBERAL 19TH CENTURY VARIETY. SUPPORT FOR THIS CONTENTION IS SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF THE MESSAGE: "IT IS OUR ULTIMATE PURPOSE TO ESTABLISH A REPRESENTATIVE, REPUBLICAN AND FEDERAL DEMOCRACY, IN TUNE WITH THE TIMES AND WITH THE NEED FOR PROGRESS OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE. IT IS FIRST NECESSARY TO REACH A LEVEL OF GENERAL WELFARE, ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH AN ADEQUATE ECONOMIC GROWTH BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES

OF SOCIAL JUSTICE WHICH WILL ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY."

4. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS AND SUBSTANTIATED BY OTHER SOURCES, A DRAFT POLITICAL OUTLINE PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT VIDEAL AND ENDORSED BY THE TOP COMMAND OF THE ARMY HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO THE JUNTA FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. THE NAVY REPORTED HAS ALSO BEEN CIRCULATING PRELIMINARY DRAFTS FOR MONTHS, BUT NEITHER THE NAVY NOR THE AIR FORCE HAS YET FORWARDED OFFICIAL PROPOSALS TO THE JUNTA.

5. IT IS COMMONLY BELIEVED IN POLITICAL PARTY CIRCLES THAT THE CURRENT CABINET OFFICERS WILL OFFER THEIR RESIGNATIONS WHEN PRESIDENT VIDELA ASSUMES HIS FUNCTIONS AS "THE FOURTH MAN" (OR FIRST MAN) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 24, 1979, PERMITTING VIDELA TO APPOINT A NEW CABINET WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A GREATER NUMBER OF CIVILIANS THAN AT PRESENT. ACCORDING TO THIS SCENARIO, THE NEW CIVILIAN CABINET MINISTERS WOULD BE LEADERS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR REPRESENTATIVES OF WHAT IS BEING CALLED "THE MOVEMENT OF NATIONAL OPINION"-- A TERM WHICH IS INTERPRETED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY IN THE ARMY THAN IN THE NAVY. GENERALLY THE NOTION IS OF ACIVIC MOVEMENT WHICH ENDORSES THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT THAT CAME TO POWER IN 1976 AND WHICH COULD SERVE AS A CATALYST OR EMBRYO FOR EITHER A SINGLE GOVERNMENT PARTY (SUCH AS IN MEXICO) OR SEVERAL POLITICAL PARTIES ENCOMPASSING THE CENTER, THE MODERATE LEFT AND THE MODERATE RIGHT, ALL OF WHICH WOULD HAVE THE SEAL OF APPROVAL OF THE ARMED FORCES.

6. PRESIDENT VIDELAS SPEECH SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW NIGHT IS EXPECTED TO ELABORATE FURTHER ON THIS THEME, ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ENTER INTO SUFFICIENTLY GREATER DETAIL SINCE THE VARIOUS PROPOSALS ARE STILL IN THEIR FORMATIVE STAGES.
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